

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Eimy Martinez and I am a resident of New Britain. I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

I am a daughter of immigrant parents who for the first 20 years in this country lived without access to healthcare. My parents constantly sought for programs and services offered to the immigrant community which were scarce. As time went by they got used to ignoring their health and were forced to learn how to live in constant pain and illness. Today, both my parents are fortunate to have adjusted their immigration status and are now permanent residents which made them eligible for health insurance. However, we can't ignore the fact that without the change in immigration status they would today continue to live in this state without the possibility of medical care.

In a single year, individuals with access to medical insurance visit all types of healthcare professionals from a general doctor, dentist, therapist or specialist, to maintain good physical and mental health or care for a serious illness. To many, It is hard to imagine a place where you couldn't seek medical attention because you lacked healthcare and a single visit to a doctor would result in a financial burden. Unfortunately, we don't have to look too far. We live in a state where healthcare is not treated as a human right. Everyone should have the right to age with dignity and respect regardless of their immigration status.

Connecticut has the opportunity to be one of the leading states in expanding its healthcare access to the entire immigrant community, not just a selected few. I strongly support HB 6616 and I urge the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Eimy Martinez

New Britain